

3
[The method of claim 33, further comprising]
generating proposed kanban stages within said production
line in accordance with said kanban parameters.

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed December 3, 1999 (Paper No. 11). A petition for a one-month extension of time and the requisite fee are filed herewith. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks are courteously requested.

By the forgoing amendment, the claims have been amended in accordance with the indications of allowable subject matter made by the Examiner. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13 to 16, 18, 20, 21, 23 to 28, 30, 32, 33, 35 and 36 are cancelled. No claims are added. Thus, claims 6, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, 22, 29, 31 and 34 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration.

Each of claims 6, 8, 11, 17, 19, 22, 29, 31 and 34 has been rewritten as an independent claim herein. Claim 12 is unamended and depends from claim 11. The newly-independent claims presented by this amended are in the precise form requested by the Examiner. Each newly-independent claim has

been amended to include each and every limitation from its previous base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Advisory Action of March 9, 2000, the Examiner indicated that the claims now remaining, claims 6, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, 22, 29, 31 and 34, would be allowed if so presented in a separately filed amendment. Consequently, Applicant has filed and now requests entry of this second after-final amendment.

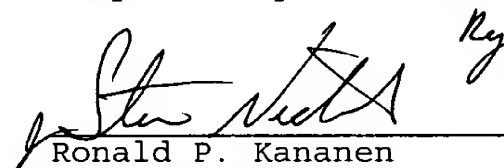
In this amendment, as requested by the Examiner, claims 6, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, 22, 29, 31 and 34 are re-presented in allowable form, while all other claims are cancelled. Consequently, following entry of this amendment, the present application should be clearly in condition for allowance as determined by the Examiner.

Entry and consideration of this amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The present amendment makes only those changes necessary to place previously dependent claims in condition for allowance as independent claims as suggested by the Examiner. The amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration. Therefore, entry and consideration of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 116 and is hereby requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 31 March 2000

 *Ry 16*
40,326

Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No. 24,104

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, PLLC
Lion Building
1233 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751

DC039118